Workers of all nations, unite! STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Central Committee
No. P31/XXXVI

Com. Shepilov (MID)

Excerpt from the minutes of the 31st session of the TsK Presidium from the 9th of August 1956

Draft of the note answering the US embassy about American servicemen, allegedly held in the Soviet Union.

To ratify the draft of the note presented by the USSR MID answering the US embassy about American servicemen allegedly held in the Soviet Union.

To make public in the press the text of the USSR MID's answering note.

SECRETARY TsK

[side "Retain for no more than 1 week. Return to 1st sector general department TsK KPSS"]

4-ls. 14 Sep 1956

Reviewed by DPMO
IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R
Date 9 DEC 99 Initials JSD

[handwritten "2"]
To item XXXVI proceeding No.31

Secret

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics pays it's respect to the United States embassy and, in referring to embassy note No 42 dated the 16th of July this year, has the honor of reporting the following.

A thorough investigation, conducted by the proper Soviet organs in connection with the US embassy's request set forth in the referenced note, confirmed that there are no American Air Force or Naval Aviation personnel whatsoever in the Soviet Union.

The results of the investigation leave no doubt that the suggestion that US servicemen are being held in the Soviet Union has no basis in fact and is erroneous.

In connection with the above-stated, the Soviet Government believes it necessary to note that the US government was, apparently, misinformed by persons who are trying to hinder the development of normal relations between the USSR and the US.

ap
kk

Reviewed by DPMC
IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R
Date 9 DEC 99 Initials JES

[TFR 226-3]
Secret. Copy No. 1
[stamp [illeg] 31 XXXVII]

TsK KPSS

The US embassy sent a note dated 16 July to the MID USSR which refers to reports received from persons of different countries freed from imprisonment in recent years by the Soviet Union. It declares that the US government has at its disposal information about the detention of several American citizens in the US Air Force or Naval Aviation.

The note says that although the US government cannot name these persons, it requests the Soviet government inform it in detail about all American servicemen which have been held in the USSR at any time, beginning from 1 Jan 1949, and about which the US government hasn't yet been informed.

The US government wishes, as it says in the resolution, for Soviet Government to conduct as thorough an investigation of this question as possible and to inform the American embassy of the results of this investigation as quickly as possible.

[Handwritten check in the margin to the left of the following paragraph]

A check conducted by the Committee for State Security established that no American citizens in the USAF or US Naval Aviation are in the Soviet Union.

The MID believes it would be expedient to deliver a response to the US embassy which points out that a thorough investigation of the question touched upon in the embassy's note showed that there are no American citizens in the mentioned category in the USSR and that, consequently, the information upon which the US embassy made its reference is erroneous.

A draft of the resolution is enclosed.

I request that you look it over.

[handwritten "31/2"]
184/Sh
87574

[signature[illeg]] [handwritten[illeg]]

Reviewed by DPM(
IAW 50 USC 435 Note & [illegible]
Date 9 DEC 99 Initials JA 93